



PRE-TOURNAMENT INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPT: FRED COUPLES
Wednesday, August 22, 2012

(Interview in progress:)

FRED COUPLES: Majors we played on were great setups and tough, but this is one with some history that other people have won on, so there's a little bit more you can look at. I think if we did that more often, we might be better off personally on this Tour if we play the U.S. Open where other U.S. opens have been played. I don't know why I think that, I just personally think that.

Q. (Inaudible.)

FRED COUPLES: To be honest, I am. I asked that to Bernhard Langer on the 18th green. I made a putt so he still had a putt to make, so as he was shaking my hands, I said, I just said this: Before I putt, can I ask you, am I in the British Open next year? He goes, Yeah, you're in the Open. So yeah, that will be very exciting.

Q. (Inaudible.)

FRED COUPLES: Right, yeah. It was not an easy day and we were cruising around fairly well. Gary Hallberg was making a little bit of a move, but at one point in time I really felt like he was ahead, he was the guy to beat. I get the holes mixed up. I birdied a hole and then next hole made a great birdie and I think he made a double, so I picked up four shots on two holes and the next thing I knew Gary Hallberg made a couple birdies to get within one shot. Then he had an eagle putt on 17 and we were tied, but I still had the 17th hole to play and I birdied that, made a long putt.

But I played a lot with Bernhard. I hope I get paired with him again this week. He's a great, great guy to play with, but it was very nice to win that, I must say.

Q. (Inaudible)

FRED COUPLES: No, for sure, if I never won Augusta.

Q. (Inaudible)

FRED COUPLES: Right, SENIOR PLAYERS is a major. You know, when you go there, there are four rounds, which I think I like. Obviously every major we play is four rounds. For me, even on the first round I shot 72, which I think I was maybe in, what, 70th place? And it was an easy day and I thought wow, 70th place on a day like that. And then I got a little bit of a blessing, I played in the morning the next day and the wind was howling and I had a really good round to move up to -- I don't know, I kept going lower and lower and lower, and that was very lucky.

A lot of other 54-hole tournaments, you know, if I come out on Friday and shoot, I don't know what the score will be because of the weather, but if you're in 50th place, you have really zero chance of winning. But you shouldn't be in 50th place. If you're playing well and you do things, you work the ball around and you get it in the hole.

But again, these majors, they're called majors and we all want to win them, but I really want to win this tournament, too. I have not really, really been close. But everyone says, well, winning in your town is a major. I had my shot to win a major at Sahalee, but...

This is a great tournament. I actually do like the course. I'm trying today, you know, to figure out how to play a couple of these holes slightly smarter. You know, where I'm going to play them three days, I don't really need to make a birdie one day and a bogey the next to even things out by just maybe playing them differently. You still have to hit good shots. But if you're uncomfortable on this course, you can kind of struggle on it and that's what I do. I play some holes really, really well and I don't really play 15, 16, 17 or 18 well at all, and it kind of makes for a sour finish. So today I just paid a little more attention. I still played 15 poorly and we didn't get to -- but I do like the course and it's in great shape.

Q. (Inaudible) quite a bit the last few years, less pressure on you?

FRED COUPLES: No, to be honest with you, I played the PGA in Seattle when Vijay won. I felt it a little bit, but I played okay. I remember I didn't have a great first day because I barely made the cut. But for the Open, I was playing really, really well and was ready for that and there's not -- you know, when people say, you know, you've got people around Tuesday and Wednesday wanting this and wanting that. I mean, I think if I was 26 years old and the U.S. Open was at Sahalee, it would be a little bit different. But being whatever I was, 50, people asking, you can answer as fast as you can and tell them, I've got to go and I don't have tickets and you can buy tickets, I'm going to have lunch here and if you want to come, come by. But it's very hard. It's easy for me to tell me because I

really don't -- it's not like I'm going to tell family, I'm going back to kick my feet up, and they're going to find me at some restaurant eating with other family members. It's just not going to happen. I don't get myself in trouble because I don't do anything. I go back and rest and try and get up and feel better the next day.

Q. (Question regarding caddie.)

FRED COUPLES: Yeah, I have Cayce, who caddied maybe last year some and then this year all of it. Cayce Kerr caddied for Fuzzy for a while. I don't know who else up here. Steve Jones, yeah.

Q. (Inaudible.)

FRED COUPLES: Really happy for Joe. He's doing very well. He loves that job, and honestly, I think they're a great pair. I think they'll be around for a long time. I think Tiger will have Joe until Joe can't do it or Tiger quits, to be honest with you.

Q. Last year there was a big deal about kind of surprised that you picked Tiger, big deal about it in this room. I guess I told you so, but in your heart does it feel obvious that you feel vindicated at all?

FRED COUPLES: You know, I'm not that kind of person, but I will say people still bring it up and it's kind of comical because they still can't put this all together. I watch the Golf Channel and I'll see some scenario where they'll say, yeah, but he shouldn't ever have picked Tiger, he picked him because of who he was.

Who he was? I mean, yeah. When you hear it, you just giggle. Now, when I picked it here, look, I can see getting picked on, but it doesn't really matter to me.

Now, Sunday night at Australia if he hadn't have played well and he lost the singles match and we lost the cup by a point or something, then I think he would have handled it very well and I would have handled it, too.

But when you're doing this, I just can't imagine having a hundred other Presidents Cups in my shoes and not picking Tiger Woods. I did not see a big deal. And to refresh a couple people, they didn't understand why I picked him early; because I wanted everyone to know that thought they might be getting picked, there's only one pick left, so don't think you can take a week off or slip a little bit.

And at the same time, Tiger played three other times and I needed him to play a couple, and he ended up going to Australia to play, too, so that's how all that transpired.

But not vindicated. It was very fun to watch him play. He had a shot at winning the week before in Australia and Joe said he's ready. And then of course the first match they lost 7 & 6, you know? So I'm thinking wow, this is not working out so well here for the pairings. So they came up to me and Steve said, Look, Tiger played okay but I was terrible, put me with someone else. I think Tiger played with Dustin Johnson and maybe got a point or half a point. But they were all critical matches, and obviously Tiger did well and we had a couple guys do incredibly well.

Q. He had the clinching point?

FRED COUPLES: He had the clinching point, yeah.

Q. So what are your duties as assistant Ryder Cup captain?

FRED COUPLES: My duties? Yeah, would be to try and keep Davis loose. There's Jeff Sluman and Scott Verplank, so we've texted a little bit. We've had some mass texting and I think it will stop for a little while. I think Davis makes his picks? You wouldn't know?

Q. (Inaudible)

FRED COUPLES: No, no.

Q. It's a couple weeks from now.

FRED COUPLES: I don't even know the tournament. It's not after Barclay's, is it? So we'll talk after that. I think -- I'm not going to say anything this time because this is all his deal, but I think he's got it down and there's maybe a spot left for someone to dash in and take it. But he's got maybe five guys and I would say out of those five, three of them are going to get it and maybe two other guys will fight for a spot, and that could be a mix of any of them. I mean, who you think might be one may flip flop with the four and five guys.

Q. (Inaudible)

FRED COUPLES: Yeah, we had a big call with Scott Verplank and Jeff Sluman last week. Excuse me, PGA I guess, when they were trying to solidify the seventh and eighth spot, nothing changed, so Phil finished eighth, which was a great help for Davis and the team.

Q. (Inaudible)

FRED COUPLES: You know, I really do. The assistant thing, I think, is going to be incredibly easy, and like hi, I'm here and have dinners with you. But really, if anything happens to jump in there and maybe take a little slough from a player and put it on not Davis but on me, you know, because what do I care? You know how it happens, I mean, nothing horrible. If some guy says something that gets blown out of proportion, you jump in there and say, Look, I was right there, this is how it happened, didn't mean anything by it, take it out on me. That's not going to happen, but just in case.

Other than that, you know, I've done this -- Jimmy's last time was the guy and we never put on headsets. He wears them, excuse me, I never do so I don't know what's going on. And a few times I would say, Drive me in, I want a peanut butter and jelly sandwich, and we'd go in there and sit in the tent, no one around us and drive back out.

It's great golf and that's the most fun. Fun being around everyone, but the way they play is great golf nowadays. And I don't know how Davis will set it up at Chicago. He's on his own there. At Royal Melbourne, both teams -- I mean, we won, but there's very few bad shots. There was a couple holes that were par 3s where guys couldn't keep it on the green, but, I mean, players are much better. Their team is incredible, the Ryder Cup. But when you look at our team, we have guys that are having great years and so that's kind of what you need. I think they have lower-ranked players, maybe players that people might think are better. But we have guys that are having great years. Bubba and Jason Dufner are playing incredible golf. We just need a couple guys to step up and we'll be just fine.

Q. Putting together a team, you mentioned there might be five guys and maybe one of them (inaudible) when he puts together a team and when he puts together his matches, does it depend on the course, how good the player -- if it's a long hitter or --

FRED COUPLES: Sure, I think so.

Q. The last four picks...

FRED COUPLES: Yeah, picking two that will play together?

Q. Yeah.

FRED COUPLES: Well, I think that's the smartest thing to do. You don't want to pick four guys and out of those four guys, pair all them with guys who've been on the team. You've got a shot of making up a team on your picks, so I would think he's going to pick two guys that are going to be paired together a lot.

Q. And beyond that, there are guys who played this course well or had a histories of --

FRED COUPLES: Yeah, I don't know much about Medinah. That's a great question. I don't know. Obviously naming them, there's Stricker and Furyk, Fowler and Bill Haas. I know Stricker and Furyk have played a few events at Medinah. I don't know if Rickie Fowler's played an event there or Brandt Snedeker's another one or Bill Haas. He'll look that up. He'll figure all that out.

But I don't think he's going to pick -- you know, David Toms was close, he's a top player but he's not really close, but if he plays well and then all of a sudden he looks and he says, wow, he finished third at the PGA here one year and fifth at the U.S. Open and blah blah blah blah, you would have to take that take into consideration, even though he's just past these other two guys. But someone's going to have to really step up and play well the next couple weeks fast.

Q. (Inaudible.) What's your mindset?

FRED COUPLES: No, I expect to play well. I hit the ball better today. I'm going to go, get out of here and rest and maybe just go putt at Broadmoor with John and then come back tomorrow. I'll play in the pro-am early tomorrow and probably practice a little bit tomorrow afternoon.

Sometimes I just really have to -- there are some holes here where I cruise around and all of a sudden I hit a drive and I go wow. It just happens. A lot of it is it's in your blood that you play holes a certain way. I mean, I struggle at Augusta on certain holes. I struggle here and I'll shake my head. Then I'll go play other holes and people will say, wow, that's the hardest hole on the course, and I'll make a birdie one day and almost birdie the next and blah blah blah blah. Today and tomorrow I just need to, you know, pay attention.

Q. Do you expect to be (inaudible)?

FRED COUPLES: Well, I do. Even though I haven't played much, I do expect to go out and play well. But if I hit the ball better tomorrow, that will be a plus. I have no feel putting and these greens are really fast, so I need to really pay attention to putting because taking three weeks off and not hit a putt is a struggle. But I honestly needed, you know, I needed to get away from golf for a little while and get ready for the tail end of this year. Unfortunately, you know, I come up here not really totally ready but I think I'm on the right track. So like everyone else, I've got to get off to a good start Friday and go from there.

Q. (Inaudible) kind of kickstart confidence wise?

FRED COUPLES: You know, I enjoyed that. I think it's a big boost. What I enjoy is playing well with those guys. I went to Memorial and played and actually played really well and I think I finished 48th or 50th and I played really, really well. The golf course is just crazy hard. Augusta's crazy hard, but I do okay there.

To be honest with you, I look forward to even next year, and I don't know when it gets to where I start shooting 75s and 6s on Thursday and Friday when I can't even compete, but at the moment I do pretty well there because I still hit it a long way and I know how to play the course.

Q. (Inaudible)

FRED COUPLES: Here?

Q. Yeah.

FRED COUPLES: No, I have gone for the green every single time. Haven't had many horrible things yet there, but I go for the green every time.

Q. And the crowds appreciate that.

FRED COUPLES: Well, I think -- you know, I don't know what would happen if I laid up. If I have a lead on Sunday I might lay up, but as far as that, it's just such a fun hole. It's not, wow, look at that, I hit it perfect and then you make a birdie.

There's a fine line to hitting a ball that's hanging in the air that far and having it come down where you want it because even though in your mind, you know, like I played it a bunch from one area, it's a ripped 3-wood for me. You know, if I miss-hit it a little bit, which I haven't yet, but it goes over in that bunker and the odds of making birdie from that bunker are one in 10.

So you say, Jesus, I went for the green, didn't hit a bad shot, now I've got to get it up over that lip and get it on the green somewhere. So it's not really a hole where you're going to birdie two out of three times because you go for it. What you don't want is to do something stupid and hit it left, because then you stand up there and you're in the same spot hitting three. That's not what you want to do.

Q. Does that hole remind you (inaudible)?

FRED COUPLES: Yeah. No, there's no -- nothing --

Q. Maybe on the Champions Tour, is it one of the more crazy holes because there is a lot of hooting and hollering?

FRED COUPLES: For me personally, I think it's a great hole to try and go for it. I think as a hole they say it's give or take. I think it's a bit brutal. I mean, I watched it on TV before I turned 50 and when I came here I thought, oh my God, you know, I was a nervous wreck because you don't know how far it's going to go. You're shooting downhill, you know. You think it's a driver because you're hitting over a gunch, but you hit it too far and you go over the green in the hazard on the other side. And then if you come off it, you go to the right and you're done.

There are a lot of risk-reward holes. That green on 17 at TPC in Phoenix totally needs to be changed. I don't know if you've watched lately, but that one pin, if you're this far left of the hole, trickles down the green into the water, that's not really a risk-reward hole. If you hit a driver and it looks pretty good and you get it on the green, that's the reward. But not to have it trickle this way and catch the slope and roll down an embankment in the water, that's why I think this is a really, really good hole. And when they put the pin to the right at Phoenix, it's a great hole.

Q. More curious about the fans.

FRED COUPLES: Oh, no, the fans here are great. They sit in that box and they want everyone to go for the green. No, I apologize, it's great. They're not going to go down 15 because dead man's inn. They're not going to walk down there because there's nothing down there. So you come to 16, so they kind of go there, and then they can go to 17 or 18. So it's a perfect spot for the hole. It's a great hole, yeah.

Q. (Question about Duffy Waldorf.)

FRED COUPLES: What does he have to look forward to? Well, making more money than he's made in the last few years, I promise you that. Sometimes the truth hurts. He's a buddy of mine, but I think that would be obvious.

I enjoy the pairings that I have. Every week I get Jeff Sluman, Jay Haas, Bernhard Langer, Tom Watson, Nick Price. Who else? You know, guys I played with my whole life on this Tour and now I get them every Friday at least.

So Duffy has a lot of that to look forward to, but really, it just gives you life. One time I thought, well, once you hit 45 to 50, maybe there's a little window for some of us to play in somewhere. No one ever believed in that, so you wait until 50. I don't know where he's played much. I know he's been injured, but he'll do very,

very well out here barring his knees and everything else, but he's a great guy and he'll do very well out here.

Q. (Question regarding the long putter, the anchored putter.)

FRED COUPLES: You know, my thoughts on that, to be quite honest with you, I think they're okay. I honestly believe that an issue to me is really the lines on the golf balls. I think that's as big a problem. People that put that straight line on there and they get a putt from six feet and they know it's two inches off the left and they put that line on the ball two inches off the left and they line their putter up with the line and they stroke it on that line and it goes into the middle of the hole, to me, I think that also takes a little skill away from the game.

But I'm not protecting myself because I use a belly putter. Personally, whatever they think is right for the game is good for me. But I've always had a problem putting a line on the ball. I can't lay my 7-iron down at my feet to hit a shot to the green. Why can you lay your ball up and aim it where you want it to go? I just don't think that's really part of golf. Whereas a putter, however long your putter, you're still doing something to make a stroke and get it in the hole. But I'm not saying it should be legal or not, that's just my thought. But my concern really is the opposite. I think that using a crutch to line your ball up is a no-no for golf. I don't know why that's legal.

Q. (Inaudible)

FRED COUPLES: Why does that make sense?

Q. Because --

FRED COUPLES: I don't use a belly putter because I don't have nerves.

Q. Well, his argument is that the nerves are there maybe (inaudible) perhaps and takes that element away.

FRED COUPLES: It does.

Q. He feels that element should be it.

FRED COUPLES: I didn't know. Okay.

Q. And by using that, you're cheating the game, you're cheating the other guys. Well, they could all do it, I suppose.

FRED COUPLES: Are you telling me that Keegan Bradley and Webb Simpson are nervous wrecks at 25 years old? I mean, I understand it. I understand

Bernhard Langer has used a hundred different grips. In my opinion, Bernhard Langer is one of the best putters out here. He has worked harder than most people because he uses a different style putter, and it took him a while to do it and now he has been able to get that down just like he has a cut bunker shot.

I get the fact. I think Bernhard would say yeah, nerves take over once in a while. But I don't think for the guys on the regular Tour that nerves take over and they have to go to a belly putter? I find that astonishing.

Q. Why did you go to it?

FRED COUPLES: I did it for really my back. In 2003, I was 41 years old and the greatest thing ever is my first year on the Senior Tour, I led the Tour in putting, but that's a shock. We could all sit up here and come up with a hundred different reasons.

Are there guys nervous putting? Sure, there are. I get nervous trying to win the British Open. I wasn't nervous on the 12th hole the first day of the British Open. If that was the case, then I should use a regular putter and Sunday go to a belly putter because my nerves aren't good. So guys are doing this because they think it helps them putt better.

But for someone to sit here and say so Bernhard Langer can stand up here on the 18th hole and hit this fairway with out-of-bounds left and water on the right with nervous hands but he can't putt? I don't know. Everyone's trying to do something to get better, in my opinion. They may outlaw it. I think it's great whatever they do. But I think it's a shame for a guy like Keegan Bradley, I don't know if he's ever used a short putter, to say, son, I know you don't have the yips, you can go use a short putter, but he's never even carried one. Just like a lot of them have never used a wooden driver. They come on, they've had metal drivers. They have no idea how hard it used to be to hit a wooden driver. But that's part of the game.

But I think this putting, they need to do something. I have no problem because they're going to talk about it forever, and if they modified it and did some stuff, that's okay. If they stopped you from holding it here, that's all good. If they got rid of the belly putter totally, I think that's all good, too. But every week someone's up there and it's like don't pay attention that he just hit a great bunker shot to four feet, pay attention that he made a four-foot putt with a belly putter. I mean, it's kind of getting enough, you know.

Q. (Inaudible.)

FRED COUPLES: No, you could put a line on there. No, you can do all that.

Q. Do you?

FRED COUPLES: No.

Q. Even though it might help you?

FRED COUPLES: My eyes aren't very good, so it throws me off, to be honest with you.

Q. (Inaudible)

FRED COUPLES: Sure, I used to do it years ago, but my eyes look that way and the line always looks like it's going straight left. I did it to maybe help me line up and it made me cross-eyed, but there are guys that do it. I just personally think that if you can do that with a ball, why can't I scrape the ground with my club so I know where my feet are going to aim so I can step up and hit? I don't understand what the difference is. But you can't line up, it's illegal to use whatever they call it, Rule dash 27 DDD E7, you know.

And that thing with Carl Pettersson? I mean, I had a few weeks off, watching that was a crying shame. That guy did nothing wrong and got a two-shot penalty.

Q. Is there a rule that pros would like to see changed, can't understand the logic of it? Not only you, but --

FRED COUPLES: You know, there's probably 10 rules people come up with. I think the one where the ball moves, there's no discrepancy, there's no, you know, did you move it, did you not move it. No one ever moves the ball. The big argument is, I said it didn't move, and then the guy you're playing with said it moved. Now, unless you get nervous with the yips and you touch it and it moves, then you just play on.

So if your ball's sitting there and you put it there and it trickles into an old little spike mark, moves that much and you get a penalty for that? It's kind of nuts. I think Adam Scott did at the British open, remember?

Q. (Inaudible)

FRED COUPLES: Right, yeah.

Q. (Inaudible)

FRED COUPLES: No problem. I think that's a great rule.

Q. (Inaudible)

FRED COUPLES: I think as of last year, then there would have been a huge argument and I think he may have lost it because anytime you step up there and pretend like he wasn't going to hit it, but he was going through his motions and he walked up on the green. I think once you get set in there to look at it, you've deemed it to move.

Q. (Inaudible)

FRED COUPLES: Well, I don't know about a Masters champ. I think as someone who's played a lot of golf courses, I've designed one in the desert that's all men, but it's not -- it doesn't hold the LA open or a Palm Springs Open or the Desert Classic Open. So I think Bill Payne's doing an incredible job with everything and I think this is just the next step. I played with Condoleezza Rice twice now and she is over-the-top excited. Yeah, she's going to play there, she likes it there. She's very excited about it. So I don't know when it all started, doesn't really matter, but I think it's a great move. It's going to be a small women's locker room, I'm pretty sure, but that's okay.

Q. (Inaudible)

FRED COUPLES: The one in Palm Springs?

Q. Yes.

FRED COUPLES: No, it's going to stay. There's some others, Preston Trail in Dallas. What's the one in Maryland, Fire Farm? The famous one out there in DC, all men, Jimmy? But there are lots of all men's clubs. Burning Tree. I mean, Augusta has women that play there. All men's club means I can't even bring a guest. I could bring a lady guest to play at Augusta at any time, so they now have women members.

Q. (Inaudible)

FRED COUPLES: She's very good, yeah. She's the Regions -- she's kind of the honorary chairperson of the tournament in Alabama. I played with her this year. She has no problem playing golf. She's actually very good.

Q. (Inaudible)

FRED COUPLES: Yeah, you know, I play golf for a living. If it was a basketball and David Stern hired a woman, I would say wow, that's all right. But in golf, any good move that's positive I think is fun because it's what I do and it doesn't affect me really in any way, but it affects me a little bit because there's two lady members and I know one of them. I can go play with her there.

Q. Will she invite you out?

FRED COUPLES: Well, I can go. I'm a member by myself. I can't bring you or I can't bring anyone there.

Q. You are a member?

FRED COUPLES: I am.

Q. Lifetime?

FRED COUPLES: Yeah. She's a member, so we can go play.

Q. You can't take your jacket home with you?

FRED COUPLES: I never have, no, no.

Q. Can you?

FRED COUPLES: I don't know. I honestly -- I don't believe you can. I think people have. No, not many people have seen the one that I have, to be honest with you.

Q. Where would you wear it?

FRED COUPLES: You know, I might take it to a steak joint with some nice khaki pants with the little Augusta thing out here and say hi. Who the hell is that?

Q. (Inaudible)

FRED COUPLES: Never used a golf glove.

Q. Will you?

FRED COUPLES: A glove? No. I have used a glove twice in my life. One was in a long driving contest in Tulsa in '82 or '83, whatever it was, for the PGA. It was so hot and we stood around. I've told that. And then I used a glove one other time in the British Open. I borrowed a glove from Tom Watson. It was raining so hard. It didn't last very long. I said, Tom, is there any way I can borrow a glove? I can't hold on to these clubs. In the tournament.

Q. Don't you perspire?

FRED COUPLES: I sweat everywhere, but it stops right here and I don't like the feel of a glove at all, at all.

Q. (Inaudible)

FRED COUPLES: I don't sweat. I do sweat some spots, but I don't sweat in my hands.

Q. Have you ever played with Tommy Gainey?

FRED COUPLES: I've never been paired with him.

Q. What exemptions do you have?

FRED COUPLES: I get to play in the Open next year and then I'll play LA.

Q. (Inaudible.)

FRED COUPLES: No, I moved near LA Country Club since they redid it about a year and a half ago. I figured as I get ready, I'll play -- it's incredible. Gil Hanse, the guy who's doing the Olympic Club, redid L.A. and it's beautiful. I used to live in the late 90s in L.A. right by Riviera. So I'm hoping to sell this house in Palm Springs. If you know anyone, I'm ready to work a deal.

Q. (Inaudible)

FRED COUPLES: No, I see myself not playing some day. I don't think I can keep -- I really am slowing down fast, I really am.

Q. (Inaudible)

FRED COUPLES: Maybe. Depends on if I only play 8 or 10 times. I have to fly to Ohio in October for a day, things like that.

Q. What would you do?

FRED COUPLES: What would you do in Ohio? I have no idea, I just have to go. Can you be my manager? Look how red he just got.

What would I do? I just had a great time in Italy and Greece, so I could do that a couple times a year. I mean, I will want to play golf, but you have to really play golf to be good. When you don't think you can keep doing that and you're not playing very well.

I mean, Tom Watson, he's 60 whatever. To me, he's unbelievable. He comes out here. If you give him one shot more a day, you know, he goes from 8th place to 16th to 20th, but then he can win at any time because if he plays a little bit, he gets better quickly. But it's very hard. He's got a body that's in pretty good shape. Mine is not. So for me, I just took three weeks off and I needed to get away. Part of it was because I won and I wanted to relax a little bit. But to get back to play like that will take a month and I'm not going to play much golf after this for the next month. So where do you go? Just what you asked. I'll play once in a while and hopefully I'll get a little bit on a roll and do well in that time. For me to play well every week, I have to work at it and work at it and work at it, and it just is killing me.

Q. (Inaudible)

FRED COUPLES: Well, it's a job because, these guys hear it all the time. It's just a job because I don't do anything. I try and play my best every week. I really want to play well. It would be nice for me to leave here and go on a boat on Lake Washington and go around and get back at 6:00 and eat dinner. I wouldn't be able to move tomorrow. I've done all that. I've tried it. I want to go do that.

But if I want to play here, my best bet is to go have a quick lunch, kick my feet up, watch the Mariners, take a bath, relax, don't do anything and I'll be okay tomorrow. But if I have my buddies here and they all want to go play golf tomorrow afternoon because I play in the morning, I wouldn't even play Friday. So that's the real issue, and it becomes more fun to just play competitive golf. But then I haven't hit that spot yet where I think I don't play well. I think I still play well all the time and I want to play well and at the time I won't physically be able to turn it around. The Jay Haas and the Nick Prices, Bernhard Langer's got an incredible body and never really had many injuries, but people hurt themselves. I guess he hurt his hand. He would know more because he's in here all the time. Sometimes people hurt their shoulder. My body's been really shot for a while, but I can go play, which also is lucky.

Q. What do you think of Felix Fernandez?

FRED COUPLES: I think he's incredible. I think he's fun to watch. I don't think he's cocky or a mess. I think he's a great pitcher and enjoys what he's doing, he has fun with it. He's very, very good.

Q. (Inaudible)

FRED COUPLES: That's what he says, yeah, I like that.

Q. (Inaudible)

FRED COUPLES: We watched the end of it, yeah. This is John sitting right back there, he TIVO'd the game because we went to the Boeing draw party. We came back, we did not watch the Mariners bat. He TIVO'd it and just watched him pitch. So we saw, what did he go, seven and two-thirds or whatever he went. We just watched him pitch. And then obviously it was 2 to 1 but it was 5 to 1. When they took him out, we zipped through everything and then crash. But I just wanted to see him --

Q. (Inaudible)

FRED COUPLES: Pittsburgh, I guess, would have that much yellow, but not Seattle. Thanks you, guys.